

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 240659

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING STATE 240659 ACTION DAKAR INFO PARIS AMMAN
TEL AVIV NOUAKCHOTT CAIRO DEC 8TH.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 240659

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR SG US

SUBJECT: SENHOR MESSAGE ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: DAKAR 5413, STATE 212875

1. AMBASSADOR COULBARY SAW NEWSOM DECEMBER 5. STATED
THAT HE HAD BEEN RECALLED BY PRESIDENT SENHOR ON
NOVEMBER 27 TO ASSIST WITH AN "IMPORTANT PROBLEM". ON
NOVEMBER 29 SENHOR TOLD HIM HE HAD JUST MET WITH A
VISITING PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) DELE-
GATION. (IN RESPONSE TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM'S
QUESTION COULBARY SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN TOLD OF THE
IDENTITY OF THE LEADER OR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PLO GROUP.
HE KNEW ONLY THAT THEY HAD COME IN THE GUISE OF TRADE
UNIONISTS.) THE PLO DELEGATION ASKED SENHOR TO USE HIS
GOOD OFFICES TO PASS ON TO SECRETARY KISSINGER THEIR
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CONCERN OVER THE FORTHCOMING PEACE CONFERENCE IN GENEVA.

THE CONFERENCE WOULD NOT FIND LASTING SOLUTIONS TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM UNLESS THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE WOULD ALSO BE SOLVED TO THE SATISFACTION OF ALL. THE PLO DELEGATION ALSO WANTED IT TO BE CLEAR THAT THEIR LEADER, ARAFAT, IS COMPLETELY DIASSOCIATED FROM SUCH RADICAL ELEMENTS AS HABACHE, AND ARE READY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONFERENCE ON THE BASIS OF THE 1947 PARTITION PLAN FOR PALESTINE. IN ADDITION TO RELAYING THE PLO MESSAGE TO THE SECRETARY, SENGHOR ASKED COULBARY TO INDICATE HIS WILLINGNESS COME AND MEET WITH PRESIDENT NIXON ON THIS MATTER IF IT WOULD SERVE A USEFUL PURPOSE.

2. NEWSOM EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR SENGHOR'S CONSIDERATION IN FORWARDING THE MESSAGE. HE ASSURED COULBARY THAT HE WOULD BRING THE MESSAGE TO THE SECRETARY'S ATTENTION BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST. NEWSOM NOTED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD ALSO BEEN MADE AWARE OF THE INTERESTS AND VIEWPOINTS OF THE PALESTINIANS FROM ARAB SOURCES.

3. THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM, HE ADDED, IS UNDOUBTEDLY ONE OF THE MOST COMPLEX FEATURES OF A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. NEWSOM STATED OUR VIEW THAT THE PEACE CONFERENCES SHOULD BEGIN WITH GOVERNMENTS, AND THAT PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION WOULD BE A MATTER FOR THE CONFERENCE TO WORK OUT.

4. NEWSOM STRESSED IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT PRESIDENT SENGHOR UNDERSTAND THAT THE SECRETARY IS NOT SETTING FORTH PROPOSALS WHICH WE WOULD INSIST ON AS A BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE, BUT RATHER, HE TALKING WITH THE GOVERNMENTS IMMEDIATELY INVOLVED TO BRING THEM TOGETHER.

5. BEFORE DEPARTING COULBARY REEMPHASIZED THAT SENGHOR WAS CONVINCED THE PLO APPROACH WAS A NEW ELEMENT AND WORTHY OF THE ATTENTION OF MAJOR POWERS. THE PALESTINIANS HAD CHOSEN SENEGAL AS A "TRUSTED VECTOR" FOR

THIS MESSAGE.

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6. NEWSOM REITERATED THAT HE WOULD INFORM THE SECRETARY AND THAT A MORE PRECISE REPLY WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. KISSINGER UNQUOTE RUSH

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